MERRY
XMAS!

Author´s Notes

Hello everyone! Thanks for reading Bleak chapter 6!

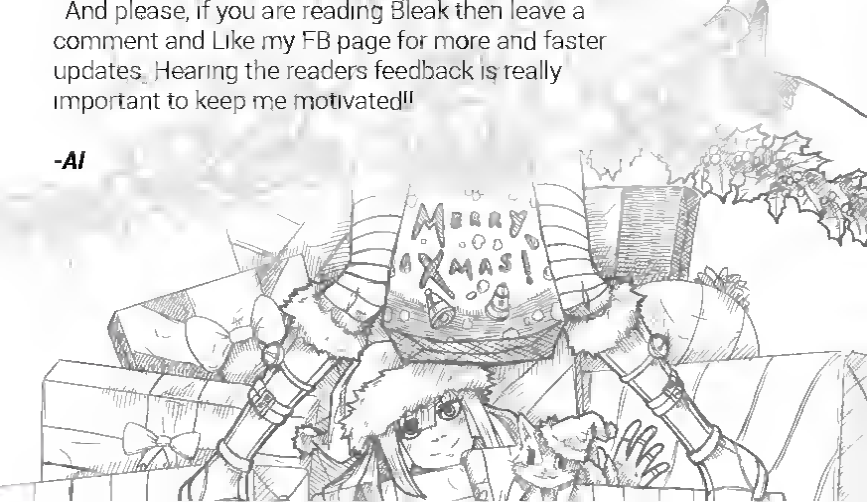
Bleak will be from now on a novel with a few illustrations an comic strips here and there.
I hope you can still enjoy the story

Important: Bleak will now be updated every Friday on my website and Sunday on any other websites.It will be updated like this until the end of the currently story arc

Site: www.thedreamcatcherz.com
FB: www.facebook.com/TheDreamCatcherz
Contact: contact-ai@thedreamcatcherz.com

And please, if you are reading Bleak then leave a comment and Like my FB page for more and faster updates. Hearing the readers feedback is really important to keep me motivated!!

-AI



DREAM 8

"Opposites"

I noticed Rec was holding a can of spray paint

"What's that?"

Rec: "Well, you took so long I went to that store that is close by and grabbed a few cans."

"For what?"

REc: "Just a habit of mine to leave a mark everywhere I go in the Dream Realm." I looked to the floor to see a really big graffiti with the words "Dreamerz Den". He also painted a faces pillow similar to the one in his caravan.

I stood up and we started walking.

I told Rec about the strange dream I had before entering the Dream Realm. Rec said that I shouldn't get into the details and instead save them for my Dream Journal, I didn't have any intention to tell him about the whole dream anyway, that would be a little embarrassing.

Rec: "You didn't throw yourself off a building?? How did you do the Dive then?"

"The "Dive"?"

Rec: "Yes! Entering the Dream Realm."

"Well...I guess I entered right after I...punched myself..." That sounds something really stupid to say.

Rec: "Yourself...?"

"Yes, huh...a younger "me" showed up and I just...punched him."

Rec: "Ha! You literally punched yourself?!Rahahaha!!" The way Rec laughs just makes me feel even more stupid about it.

"A-anyway, what does that mean? You didn't tell me there was more ways to do the Dive"

Rec: "That's because I didn't know about any other way, I guess you just discovered one more! Way to go AF! Rakaka!" This compliment just makes him sound like he's making fun of me...

Rec: "No, seriously, that's awesome. Every little thing we discover about Lucid Dreaming and the Dream Realm is really exciting and valuable information. I don't think even Dehler knows about this method!"

"Speaking of Dehler...he was the one who told me the clock's hands always spin randomly in a dream, it has worked so far so why didn't it work in this dream?"

Rec: "Dehler told you that? Hmm, he probably wanted you to think that was the case so you would notice you were dreaming while in the Dream Realm. Only here a clock's hands spin randomly, in a regular dream it depends from person to person, I guess."

"Who is Dehler anyway? I mean, where do you know him from? Is he an uncle of any of you guys or something?"

Rec: "Man, that's a long story, lets save that for later. But no, Dehler isn't blood related to any of us in the Dreamerz Den. If I was to describe him though I would say he's probably the guy that knows more about the Dream Realm than anyone else in this world, so I guess if someone has any connection to the Dream Realm they are bound to meet Dehler at some point." Is he that special? He didn't look like it at all when I met him.

Rec: "But, hey, why the hell did you punch yourself in the dream?" That was one of the details I didn't feel like telling Rec, actually I didn't really tell him much, just a very vague explanation.

"He...wouldn't let me get out of the classroom. He kept saying stuff like "Please stay here!" or something like that." Rec suddenly got quiet.

He simply looked at me with a strange expression on his face. The usual big smile on his face was gone.

"What is it?"

Rec: "Ah, nothing Rahaha, it's nothing... probably."

I was following Rec even though I didn't know where he was going. Honestly I'm not even interested, I'm too busy staring at this beautiful pink sky. It's not a view you can witness every day, so I want to take the best of this experience, unfortunately my neck is starting to hurt because of how long I've been looking up.

"Wait..." As I stopped admiring the sky something else immediately got my attention.

"Hey, Rec, this place looks exactly like the park we were in before falling asleep. Even your caravan is right there! How is that possible?"

Rec: "That`s because it's humans who create this place. Hum... I guess that's not totally correct, this place is created by every living being in the real world that is able to dream."

"Uh? What do you mean?"

Rec: "When a person dreams, they often dream about their daily life, about their house, their job, their school, their street. Every time anyone dreams about their surroundings in real life, they are unconsciously recreating it in this world. You can say this world only exists because humans dreamed about it. This world is where the emotions that humans dream about, gain materialization. This entire world is created by dreams. That`s why it's so similar to the real world, because it's the result of all mankind recreating their real life surroundings while dreaming. Every night this world is rebuilt by the dreams of all humans and animals." I didn`t say a word, I was still processing everything he was saying.

Rec: "However it`s not just surroundings that gain materialization here. Emotions also may gain materialization here, for example,

if it's a dream connected with positive emotions it may materialize into something like that thing right there." Rec pointed towards my foot.

"What the?!" That surprised me! I didn't notice this strange little creature that is walking next to my foot

Rec: "That's the materialization of someone's positive emotions when they were dreaming, it's inoffensive, we call them Glika!" I was looking at the little creature that wouldn't leave my side.

"Hey... I remember this little guy. I saw him last time I was here, it came out of the floor I think."

Rec: "That's how they are born into this world, that's how everything is created. When the vast majority of the people in this area are sleeping you can see the emotions and memories falling from the sky like snowflakes to create everything that exists here.

It's an amazing view!"

"Hum... Yeah, I vaguely remember something like that, but only vaguely, it was only a few seconds before that creepy monster appeared." Now that I remember about that monster...

"...Hey, It's not like some monster like the one I saw is going to randomly appear now, right!?"

Rec: "Don't worry, don't worry! You are with me! But to answer your question: people's nightmares also have an impact here. When someone dreams about something deeply negative, that negative emotion may gain materialization here. That's what that monster you saw was. We call them Epiales."

"Epiales... Why did that one attacked me?"

Rec: "Because they are the total opposite of the Glika. They are created from only raw negative emotions, the materialization of someone's deep stress. Epiales have no conscious, they only act based on the emotion they are made of. Usually they just go around destroying everything, with special taste for Oneironauts for some reason." Just remembering the face of the thing that attacked me was enough to creep me out, so I didn't need that kind of observation to make me even more paranoid

about those things. I mean, Dream Realm or not this is still just a dream, my real body is still in the real world which means nothing can hurt me no matter how real it may look

Rec: "It looks like that Glika really got attached to you." The small Glika is just following us around and looking at me.

"...you think it's because I was the first thing he saw?" I crouched down and started poking him in a playful way.

Rec: "hum...who knows, maybe." The little guy looked really pleased as I pat him on the head.

"Looks just like my Pyon."

Rec: "Pyon?"

"It's my pet, a dwarf rabbit."

Rec: "Oh...a Dwarf Rabbit? That sounds cute, let us see Pyon one of these days then...it's probably too much cuteness for Vi to handle at once though Rakaka!!" Rec took a deep breath before continuing.

Rec: "But anyway, what do you know about how to use your Zees?"

"Uh? Hum...I guess...nothing?"

Rec: "Nothing? Seriously? Dehler didn't even tell you that?"

"Humm...only something really vague I really don't even remember well."

Rec: "Daaamn, that old man never changes...

So, hum, let's start with the very basics for this first time

Here, physical strength, muscles or size, don`t matter much. Our body here is a materialization of our mind. While here we are not limited by physical laws or the limits of our real body.

A Smilers`s Zees are his strength, you just need to know how to control them as you please, usually giving them a name helps. It´s kind of like a mantra, naming it helps you evoke a certain emotion that you relate with the word. And the Zees react to that, materializing your state of mind"

"Sounds kinda confusing, but I guess I understand the part about the Zees in a way."

Rec: "That's good enough for now! Now comes the fun part!" Rec closes his eyes and remains silent for a moment.

His Zees appear and start flying around him just like mine usually do. Then something strange happens. He's controlling his Zees in a way I never did, like flying around his body and arms, controlling even the direction they go and how much away from him they fly.

"How do you do that??"

Rec: "You can learn too, here you have much more control over your Zees and the potential to do many different things, but with practice you can even control them this way in the Real World."

"How do I start then?"

Rec: "You used a word to control them the last week, right?"

"Uh...yeah."

Rec: "Since that worked it means that word is your "Zword", the "mantra" I was talking about. So just use that word again to help you control them."

"D-do I have to say it out loud? That's kinda embarrassing..."

Rec: "Saying it, shouting, thinking, whatever works for you. But I would recommend you to shout it, it works best that way, kind of like martial artists do you know?"

"But...you didn't say anything."

Rec: "Rahaha, an experienced Smiler doesn't need to say his Zword for something this simple. However I'm still a special case, I don't have a word."

"No? I thought you needed one."

Rec: "Usually all Smilers have, as I said I'm a special case. Never wondered why my nickname is Rec?"

"I...never really thought about it."

Rec: "It's because I have photographic memory. Especially visual memory, just one minute in a room and I will remember all the details

about it for the rest of my life. But my memory is absolute, everything gets stuck in my head with equally amount of detail, it may be difficult to have what regular people call a "special memory" right?" Rec face turned a bit melancholic, well maybe not exactly the right word to describe it, but definitely not has happy has he usually does.

Rec: "So, that may be a reason why I don't have any special word, that's at least one of the reasons Dehler told me about. But not the only one. You know, what's really ironic about it, is that even though I have photographic memory, I also have amnesia."

"Amnesia?"

Rec: "Yes, I have absolutely no memory from before I was ten years old. But I remember absolutely everything after that, and my very first memory is waking up all alone on a rainy night in the streets with a bloody forehead and seeing my Zees in front of me. Ever since I remember I've been able to control them easily, if I ever knew a word then it's gone. I don't even remember my real name. Damn, I wish I could at least remember my own name."

"Aha...!" Ups...I didn't mean to laugh.

"Oh, Sorry! I know that's not funny at all! Don't get the wrong idea! I just found it kinda...ironic that the part about your name is the exact opposite of me."

Rec: "the opposite?"

"Yeah, I mean, you don't remember your name and that's something you really wanted to know while I know my name and don't tell it to anyone. I thought maybe you were like me but actually we use nicknames for completely opposite reasons."

Rec: "Rakaka! I see, I see. Well, that's just one more thing in which we are opposites then, AF."Uh? I don't really get what he means though.

Rec: "Oh. It looks like play time is over."

"What? What do you mean?"

Rec: "We already found some. Way sooner than expected though. I guess we will just skip the theory part and go ahead to the practical

lesson." I looked behind me and noticed two strange creatures not too distant from us. I have to confess, I'm feeling scared as hell.

"Are t-those things...?"

Rec: "Yeah. It's them.

Epiales."